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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

# New Drug Wave Points Westward

**By Jack Anderson**

President Nixon's herculean effort to stop drug smuggling has at last slowed the flow of heroin from Turkey and Southeast Asia. But a new tidal wave is rising in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

Even our mideastern ally, Iran, has started to grow its own opium under government control, but the government may not be able to stop illegal shipments from being diverted to America.

This is the warning of the Central Intelligence Agency, which has also reported ominously: "Rumors persist that some members of the royal family and parliament are narcotics users. Swiss authorities recently charged an Iranian Prince, who accompanied the Shah to Switzerland, with having transferred pure opium."

Secret documents from the CIA and other intelligence agencies describe dangerous opium buildups in South Asia. This could be a shot in the arm for the Mafia, whose supplies in Turkey and the Thailand-Laos-Vietnam area are slowly beginning to dry up.

The new smuggling menace was raised by the CIA's Directorate of Intelligence in memos dated June 26 and June 9.

"Whether or not substantial quantities of South Asian opium are diverted to the U.S. and Western Europe will depend, in the final analysis, on

the Western traffickers," reports the CIA.

"Tribal producers in Afghanistan and Pakistan undoubtedly would be willing to sell to Western traffickers . . . The potential for substantial diversions of opium westward exist . . .

"Laxities in South Asia would offer a distinct advantage to international traffickers if they should decide to tap the South Asian opium market."

## Opium Gum

In Afghanistan production is up. Starving peasants, "lacking adequate food supplies because of recent droughts, have resorted to chewing opium gum to ease hunger pains."

In Pakistan, too, production "may have risen sharply since 1969," says the CIA. In both countries "penalties for narcotics violations are minimal."

The intelligence documents also suggest that the Mafia would have no trouble corrupting officials in both countries.

In Afghanistan, the documents report, "official corruption including high-level protection of narcotics dealers is . . . a problem" and "smuggling is a way of life."

In Pakistan, "official corruption is reported to be a serious problem" among the Land Customs, Sea Customs, provincial police and para-military forces.

Worse, "the existing hashish

network in Afghanistan and Pakistan could be used to send substantial quantities of opium westward," warn the intelligence documents. Afghans already have "professional and sophisticated" means of getting hashish by air to Tehran, Beirut and Frankfurt and by sea to Karachi. Some has reached the U.S.

As for India, the documents say it now produces about three-quarters of the world's legal opium for medical purposes. The widely held view that India is effectively controlling its opium production is a "myth," the documents allege.

Iran still doesn't produce enough legal opium for the country's registered addicts, who receive the drug under a national program. But the opium harvest is increasing.

Meanwhile, allege the documents, "the estimated 180-300 tons currently being smuggled into Iran, that could become available, exceeds the total opium equivalent needed to supply the U.S. market."

## Diplomatic Grievances

Diplomats at the State Department have been complaining about undiplomatic treatment from their bosses. This week the squabble among the striped pants set will boil over into a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

Chairman Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) is finally yielding to Senate pressure and holding

hearings on a bill to give State Department workers an independent grievance board.

Two present and one former foreign service officers are breaking the gentleman's code of silence and spilling their woes.

One witness is John Hemenway, a conservative diplomat who claims he was fired because he argued with his bosses over U.S. policies in Berlin.

A present foreign service officer, John Harter, who fought and won an appeal against shabby treatment from the department, has told his story in a letter to Hays. Even State's grievance board upheld Harter, urging that he be promoted, given a new job and reimbursed for his lawyers' fees.

The State Department, however, has largely ignored the recommendations which are now eight months old.

While the Hays hearings have made the State Department anxious over what further horror stories may surface, some of their fears are unwarranted. Hays has confided that he does not expect a bill out of his committee until the next session.

This means that the Senate would have to go through the entire process of passing their version of the measure again before any grievance board is set up outside the department's own jurisdiction.